# **JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION**

anger no barrier to missionary pair

LAREDO, Texas — Among all the hundreds of places North American Mission Board (NAMB) church planting missionaries work and minister across the United States and Canada, none is more dangerous than Laredo in south Texas, where Chuy and Maria Avila live and serve.

Laredo, with a population of 300,000 in the city proper, sits on the north bank of the Rio Grande, right across the river from Nuevo Laredo in Mexico. The Laredo/Nuevo Laredo metro area has a combined population of more than 700,000 American and Mexican citizens. It's a mecca of cold-blooded murder, drugs, and chaos.

It's a mecca of cold-blooded murder, drugs, and chaos.

Nuevo Laredo to Laredo is a thoroughfare for an estimated \$20 billion drug market operated by drug cartels between Mexico and the U.S. With the drugs come unchecked violence and bloodshed. A recent local shootout between Mexican Federal Police officers and drug cartel members left a dozen dead and over 20 wounded.

It's routine for Laredo citizens to hear gunfire echoing across the Rio Grande from the Nuevo Laredo side of the border.



CHURCH PLANTERS — North America n Board (NAMB) church planting m

Chuy, 48, and Maria, jointly sponsored by NAMB and the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, are two of more than 5,000 missionaries in the United States, Canada and their territories supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® for North American Missions. They are among the missionaries featured as part of the annual Week of Prayer on March 6-13.

With a theme of Start Here, the 2011 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering's goal is \$70 million, 100% of which benefits missionaries like the Avilas.

"Laredo is a dangerous place to minis-

"Laredo is a dangerous place to minister," says Avila. "I need prayers and support from my Christian brothers and sisters."

Born into a Catholic family in Juarez, Mexico, Avila was only five when a missionary came to town to hold a tent revival. "This is the way the Gospel came to our family. My mom got saved, my father was saved, and I got saved when I was 21-years-old. The next year, I was called into the ministry."

Only 18 months ago, the Avilas were living in Tennessee, where he spent 11 years as a Hispanic church start strategist. "I knew nothing about Laredo at the time," says Avila.

time," says Avila.

"I was praying for a new challenge and a new vision, and the Lord put Laredo in my mind and in my heart."

After visiting, the Avilas fell in love with the south Texas border town.

In Laredo, Avila's technique has been to go into neighborhoods — he calls them "colonias (colonies)" — where there is no existing evangelistic work in place and where he feels a need to start a brand-new Bantist church brand-new Baptist church.

He begins with block parties and Vacation Bible Schools, and every Laredo family that shows up at a block party receives a free Bible.

and the state of the control of the

He has formed partnerships with local pastors and laypeople, and established a "missionary house," a house fully equipped to hold a group of up to 30 people. People spend a week there and are hosted, taught, and discipled by Avila. The missionary house doubles as a church on Sunday.

"There are only 53 evangelical churches in Laredo," says Avila. "To reach just 25% of the population of 300,000, Laredo needs 278 new churches. We now have only 14 Bapcist churches, averaging 10 people each. We need to start an add anal 50 churches during the next five years just to keep up with

need to start an add anal 50 churches during the next five years just to keep up with Laredo's population growth."

Avila says even putting the danger issue aside, Laredo is a challenging place to minister. "The average age of the population is only 30-35 years old," Avila says, "and not only are the people young, 80-90% speak Spanish and 70% are bi-lingual, so Laredo is a city offering different kinds of situations, different than other U.S. cities.

Avila's vision is to impact Laredo with

tions, different than other U.S. cities.

Avila's vision is to impact Laredo with the Gospel one family at a time, so he focuses on reaching entire families for Christ."

According to Avila, Baptists have been in Laredo for 135 years, but that 135 years has only produced 14 Baptist churches. With his goal of 10 new churches a year for a total of 50 new churches in five years, Avila will have started more churches in five years than past Baptists started in Laredo in the last 135 years.

"We want to start house churches, contemporary churches, traditional churches, cowboy churches, truck-driver churches, and more Spanish- and

churches, cowboy churches, truck-driver churches, and more Spanish- and English-speaking churches," he says.

Avila sees his role as a catalyst who maps out the city, tries to find the right place a new church is needed, and determine what kind of church to plant.



NATIONAL GOAL: \$70 MILLION

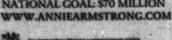
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BAPTISTS

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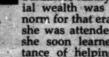
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### The Great Unifier unifies us still

Throughout Southern Baptist history, God has consistently raised leaders of momentous abilities to move the denomination toward the goal of fulfilling our Lord's Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). They were bold people who sought the mind of God. At times, they were forced to swim against the tide of contemporary thought as well as strong-willed but misguided individuals who sought to turn Southern Baptists in other directions.

One of the greatest and strongest of those God-chosen leaders was Annie Armstrong, the first corresponding secretary

Annie was born into a Baltimore family whose mater-ial wealth was far above the



William H. Perkins Ir.

the first corresponding secretary of the Woman's Mission Union (WMU) auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention, and one of the early supporters among Southern Baptists of the concept of home missions (now known as North American missions).

ial wealth was far above the norm for that era. Even though she was attended by servants, she soon learned the importance of helping others who were less privileged. Her mother, a generous and deeply spiritual woman, founded the Union Protestant Infirmary in Baltimore and was instrumental in starting many other such programs in the Baltimore area.

Annie grew up following her mother's example of sacrificial service. She began giving freely of her time and formidable organizational skills in volunteer work a local orphanages and poorhouses. Early in life, Annie developed a burden for the souls of uncounted number who needed to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. It was this background that Annie Armstrong carried into her Southern Baptist denominational work.

As most of us know and history records, women's involvement in the work of the denomination was bitterly opposed in the early days



NATIONAL GOAL: \$70 MILLION

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and evangelization She received no salary as WMU corresponding secretary, preferring instead to funnel all gifts and offerings into missions work while paying her modest living expenses from personal funds. When the WMU executive ttee in 1900 attempted to

of WMU when Annie served as correspond-

of WMU when Annie served as correspond-ing secretary. Armstrong, who would come to be known with good reason as The Great Unifier, spoke instead of a "growing ability, and of decreasing impediments to progress, which inevitably lead to a fuller understand-ing and acknowledgement of our position as factors of usefulness in the world's advance and evangelization. We thereby lose not one iota of our womanliness."

committee in 1900 attempted to convince her to accept a salary in light of her serious financial decline, she threatened to quit rather than take the money.

Armstrong

The idea was dropped until after her departure.

Armstrong was a great believer in trying to convince the fractious Southern Baptist entities to work together, and she succeeded to a great extent. Hence, her reputation as The Great Unifier. In 1934, the Southern Baptist offering for North American mis-

as The Great Unifier. In 1934, the Southern
Baptist offering for North American missions was named in her honor. The Annie Armstrong Easter
Offering for North American Missions ranks today as one of the
greatest offering efforts in the history of evangelism.

Not one to rest on her laurels, Annie continually exhorted
WMU members to remember an important fact:

These opening doors for women, never so numerous or so wide
before, are God's call to us to work as we have never worked before.
Rewards await us yonder, work awaits us here.

Now is the time to be in prayer about your role in North
American missions – so many remain unsaved here – and in
prayer about your gift to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. As
Annie herself so eloquently pointed out, there is much left to do.

## Vickie Stewart: small stature, giant heart

BALTIMORE, Md. — College freshman Shemaiah Strickland suffered with horrible nightmares when she first came to Morgan State University in Baltimore. Adjusting to being away from her home in Atlanta for the first time, she said she just wanted to belong.

Strickland attended a uni-

versity organization fair and met Southern Baptist missionmet Southern Baptist missionary Vickie Stewart, who was
staffing a booth with fellow
campus chaplains for The
University Memorial Chapel.
Strickland had prayed to God
for help with her loneliness. "I
asked God what to do, and He
sent me to Vickie," she says.
Stewart gave Strickland
her card and invited her to
call whenever she wanted to

call whenever she wanted to talk. She made the call and Stewart later led her to Christ.

Though Strickland had attended church off and on, she says she never felt she had a personal relationship with Jesus. She started going to Stewart's weekly on-campus Bible studies with the roung women and accomplished the studies of the studies with the roung women and accomplished the studies are studied to the studies and the studies are studied to the studies and the studies are studied to the studied to th other young women and says she was impressed right away with the teaching and was inspired with the seriousness of the stu-

dents' study of the Scriptures.
Strickland remembers telling herself, "I don't need church. herself, "I don't need church. I could just read the Bible. That was my thing, but then I came here and Vickie brought me to Christ with her teachings."

At first, Strickland says she felt intimidated with how the

felf intimidated with how the girls could recall and apply Bible verses so readily during discussions. "I'm thinking, I've got a relationship with God and

necting and building relation-ships," with them is the key to her ministry, she says.

REVEALING THE WORD — North American Mission Board (NAMB) 2011 Week of Prayer missionary Vickie Stewart (second from left), campus minister at Morgan State University in Baltimore, leads a weekly women's Bible study at the school. Stewart, a Baltimore native, came to Morgan State in 2008 as campus missionary. To her students, she is "Miss Vickie." (NAMB photo)

I can't even quote a Scripture.
All I know is I can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens me.' How can I get closer to God if I don't read His Word and if I don't know the "I might say, 'Hello, my name is Miss Vickie. How can I pray is Miss Vickie. How can I pray for you? They'll say, 'Oh, really, you want to pray for me?' and I'll say, 'Yes,' and I tell stude is, 'I am here to serve you. Here's my number, if you need prayer or want to talk. I am available."

Stewart, who is jointly funded by the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and the Bantist Convention of

the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, is one of more than 5,000 missionaries in the United States, Canada, and their territories supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® (AAEO) for North American Missions.

American Missions.

They are among the missionaries featured as part of the annual Week of Prayer on March 6-13. With a theme of Start Here, the 2011 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering's goal is \$70 million, 100% of which benefits missionaries like Startes. sionaries like Stewart.

draw students and staff to her like a magnet at this Historic Black College and University. Founded in 1867, originally as a school to train pastors by the Methodist Episcopal Church, the

college became a state university in 1975 and offers a wide variety of programs to its 7,500 students.
Doctoral student Katherine
Lloyd meets weekly for lunch
with Stewart for fellowship and

support. Lloyd says it was hard for her, too, coming to a new environment, leaving a rural area to attend school, and living in an urban area the first time. but a mutual friend introduced her to Vickie via Facebook.

"We immediately connected," Lloyd says.
"Vickie is my only consis-

tent Christian woman friend I have," Lloyd says. "She's the only person I know here that I can go to as a woman and talk about stuff and know that this is coming from someone who is like-minded in Christ. It's a quick hour but it's just good to know that once a week ! The petite, 4 foot-11 inch, 48-year-old's upbeat spirit seems to have that fellowship."

The property of the same of th



#### THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

**PUBLISHED SINCE 1877** 

MARCH 3, 2011 VOL. 135 No. 9



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT Now!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I revent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

March 7, 2011 11 AM

Lauderdale County March 7, 2011 2 PM

Kemper County March 7, 2011

Philadelphia Reservation (New Choctaw) March 10, 2011

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Jasper County March 10, 2011

Smith County March 10, 2011

Wayne County Courtho 609 Azalea Dr Waynesboro 39367

Clarke County Courthouse 101 S. Archusa (Hwy 145) Ouitman 39355

DeMont Plaza (Downtown) 22nd Ave & 4th Meridian 39302

Kemper County Courthouse ippi 39 & Main St De Kalb 39328

Amphitheatre at Choctaw Reservation Corner Industrial Rd/ Recreation Rd (near Choctaw Central HS) Choctaw 39350

City Park (next to Courthouse) 27 West 8th Ave Bay Springs 39422

Smith County Courthouse 123 Main St Raleigh 39153 Tunica County March 14, 2011

**Quitman County** March 14, 2011 2 PM

Coahoma County March 14, 2011

Calhoun County March 15, 2011

March 15, 2011 NOON

**Lamar County** March 21, 2011

Forrest County March 21, 2011

Perry County March 21, 2011

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The John Templeton Foundation has again honored Mississippi College by placing it on the 1991 Honor Roll of Character Building Colleges that includes 108 institutions throughout the country. Schools on this annual listing "best exemplify campuses that encourage the development of strong moral character among students."

type of person that He is?"
Reaching students such as
Strickland is what Vickie

Stewart is passionate about. Simply known as "Miss Vickie," Stewart energetically

moves around campus on mission to connect, as she puts it, with students whenever the

THE BAPTIST RECORD

MARCH 3, 2011

- THE BAPTIST RECORD

Membership in the churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention is rapidly approaching a half million. Figures for 1960 reveal that Mississippi Baptists not total 468,739, a new record and a gain of

Looking back

Receipts for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North

American Missions jumped 11% in 2000 to \$48.4 million, the largest increase since 1982 and eighth consecutive record offering.



HPB NR JS THN, SKHS, TKJEZ SKZQ TZDZ SKZDZ, SKZ BHQN TZDZ HFFRLVEINKZB SKHS NKZ NKRWEB AZ BZEJYZDZB.

**EWXZ STR NIO** 

Clue: H = A

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Two: Nine

MS Positions

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#### CRITICISM OF WHAT IS NOT DONE

It absolutely does not matter what you do - there will

be someone nearby who will be prepared to criticize you for what you did not do. That fact crosses all lines of cation, denominations, political persuasions, or sports endeavors. Nobody ever told me this I remember) or explained it to me in a way that I would understand. As a pastor, I was baffled when there would be voices or waves of criticism as we were trying to do something meaningful, significant, and something that at the time I thought was God-led and spiritual. Being a slow learner it took me not years but decades to figure out that anytime that you do something good, it is an open door for people to criticize you for what you did not do.

I was reminded of this as I

He covered a number of top-ics and a number of signifi-cant issues that need to be addressed by the state Legislature and the leaders Legislature and the leaders that are there. Later, I listened to some of the comments about his speech. I believe it was the following day that the newspaper had an article that was entitled something like, What the Governor Did Not Talk About During His Speech. There were significant things that he left out of his Condition of the State speech. Condition of the State speech.
I was interested in what the writer heard and what was not said. I also wondered

was listening to the Governor of Mississippi give his last State of the State Address.



what he might have written if the Governor's speech had been four hours long and he had covered all the topics of

I was reminded of this again as we are involved in the Prayer Rallies in county seats across our state. We focus on the need for prayer, the power of prayer, and invite and encourage people to join in making a commitment to pray for self and to ask God what He wants to do in their life. We ask people to pray for servants and those of our communities who are shouldered with responsibilities and are in a position to influence and make a difference. We ask people to pray for the souls of those around us who need a touch from Jesus not only to give them everlasting life, but also to give abundant life.

Early on in this pilgrimage of Prayer Rallies, I came aware of the heartbeat of folks who came forbeat of folks who came forward after the gatherings to point out that there were some things for which we did not pray that needed to be a part of this experience. They were legitimate things—good things, right things, and healthy things that needed to be undergirded by prayer. At some of the

Prayer Rallies, I ran into people who wanted to share the burden of their heart about things that had been left out. Some items clearly came out of deep concern, and others expressed a passion that bordered on anger because nothing was said. It is a longer list than I can give you in this article, but re are a few things.

We need to pray...

• that we would love our

God would save America.

 our troops.
 the protection of the unborn. the protection of the unborned people struggling with illness.

· our churches.

persecuted church • the around the world.

· Israel.

· racial reconciliation. Christian reconciliation within our congregations'

those who are in prison.

This is an enormous picture of needs and prayer concerns. While some peo-ple may have wanted to register their comments as a criticism, I must confess

that I did not see it as criti-

cism so much as legitimate concern from their hearts

for needed areas of prayer involvement and attention. On most occasions, I tried to encourage the person who shared the need to make that need a part of their daily gathering at the throne of God and when they had an opportunity to help others know why it is so important to pray for

these things.

As they shared with me, I was also made aware of the fact that prayer has no limits except our lack of understanding or knowledge at times, and for our lack of time or maybe faith in get-ting those issues from our heart to God. Covering Mississippi in Prayer has not been just a series of rallies across our state so much as it is a daily gathering before God. In many lives this is giving God an opportunity not only to help us think outside the box or even live outside the restriction of powerlessness, but to put us at the forefront of coming to Him one by one and by the thousands to ask our great God to intervene in us and in all of those things around us about which He has raised our awareness and sensitivity.

As a result, the power, love, and manifestation of God at work among us have been unleashed in ways I would never think or that we have ever addressed. In the midst of it and growing out of these events, may we grow and may God be glori-

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

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Secretary and the co



THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Spring 2011

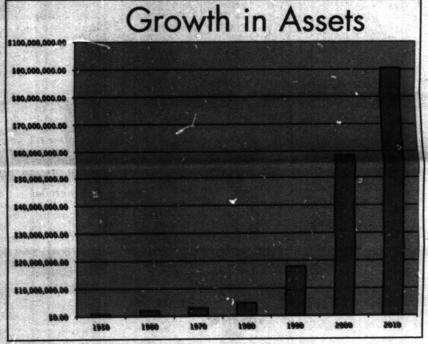
Secret - "sē-krət" - (1) something kept hidden or unexplained; (2) something kept from the knowledge of others or shared only confidentially with a few;

uring the past 6 1/2 years that I have been privileged to serve as the Executive Director of your Mississippi Baptist Foundation, I have heard folks comment "The Foundation is the best kept secret in Mississippi Baptist life." With the goal of making our "secret" known across Mississippi, please receive this edition of Foundation News through which the historical Mission, the current Ministry, and the continuing Message of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation is presented.

### OUR MISSION

ollowing the 1940 annual meeting of Mississippi Baptists, the Baptist Bequest Committee was established for the general purpose of stewardship education with the specific goal to educate Mississippi Baptists of the opportunity to favor Baptist institutions through their Last Will and Testament. In the Baptist Bequest Committee's report and recommendation that was presented to messengers at the 1941 annual Convention, O. B. Taylor stated, "It has been the general purpose of the Committee to conduct its work so as to first inform, then to interest, and finally to influence our people to write wills which have in them the will of God' (and) "continuous, persistent, and well-directed efforts must be made to get the matter on the minds and in the hearts of our people."

During the 1941 annual meeting of Mississippi Baptists, C. J. Olander submitted a resolution encouraging Convention messengers to consider the establishment of a



Baptist Foundation whose purpose would be to safeguard and invest endowment assets of our Baptist institutions and agencies with the resultant earnings being distributed for the operation of these respective institutions and agencies.

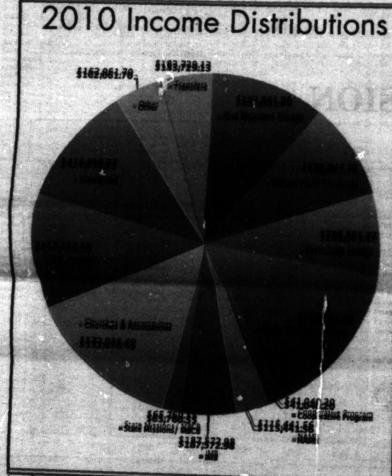
Based on the recommendation of the committee appointed in 1941 to "make a thorough study of the matter of establishing a Baptist Foundation," the Mississippi Baptist Foundation came into existence through the action of the Convention in 1943.

Since those early days nearly seventy years ago, the Mississippi Baptist Foundation has been a resource for churches, institutions, and agencies within both the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. As of fiscal year end 2010 (6/30/10),

the Foundation administered assets of approximately \$90 million. At the close of 2010 (12/31/2010), the Foundation administered nearly \$100 million in trusts and endowments. These assets have increased through the generosity of Mississippi Baptists. In the decade since 2000, these assets have provided over \$35 million in earnings that have been distributed for Kingdom ministries through Baptist causes.

## OUR MINISTRY...

he Mississippi Baptist Foundation serves as the trust agency of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, offering a means whereby Mississippi Baptists can provide perpetual support for Miseissippi Baptist and Southern Baptist causes until our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ returns.

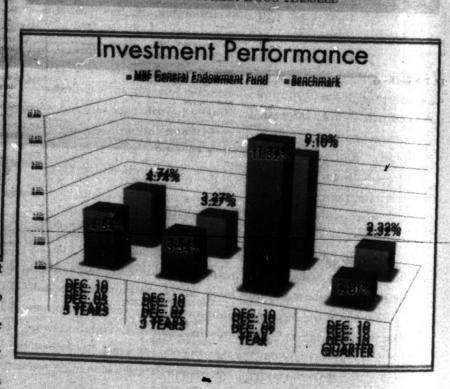


As the trust agency of the Convention, the Mississippi Baptist Foundation not only promotes Christian estate stewardship, but also receives, invests, and manages endowment gifts. Additionally, the Foundation distributes earnings from these endowments to many Baptist ministries. In essence, the Mississippi Baptist Foundation serves as a money-management partner for Mississippi Baptist churches, institutions, and agencies. The Mississippi Baptist Foundation ministers under the direction of a Board of Trustees elected by the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the Foundation receives primary funding through a Cooperative Program allocation. As a Mississippi Baptist agency, the Mississippi Baptist Foundation desires to advance the goal of "helping bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus."



FRONT ROW FROM LEFT: ROBIN SANDERSON, CATHY FREEMAN, DAN WYNN, BARRY HARDY, ROY MCKAY BACK ROW FROM LEFT: JIM FORD, KEARNEY TRACIS, PAUL BREAZEALE, SOLON SMITH, FRED PORTER, RON LOGAN

\*NOT PIETURED: DOUG HASSELL



Perhaps the most well-known ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation is our Scholarship Ministry as thousands of students have been awarded millions of dollars over the course of the Foundation's existence. For the 2010-2011 school year, approximately 375 students received in excess of \$400,000 to further their education at a Baptist college in Mississippi or a Southern Baptist seminary.

## 2010-2011 Scholarship Recipients Encouraging the Present... Preparing for the Future

Blue Mountain College Victor Barnette
Kristin Barnhardt.
Rebecca Elizabeth Beam
Anna K. Beasley
Nicholas Bibbs.
Ann-Carter Bloomfield
Hunter Luke Bloomfield
Timothy Blake Boudreaux
Victoria Camille Broome
Anna Katherine Brown
Halley Alexandra Brunt
Kristen McKenzie Bryant
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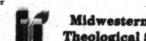
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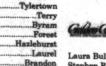
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## OUR MESSAGE...

be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else." 2 Corinthians 9:11-13

WILL TRUST

n You Look at Your Estate Plan

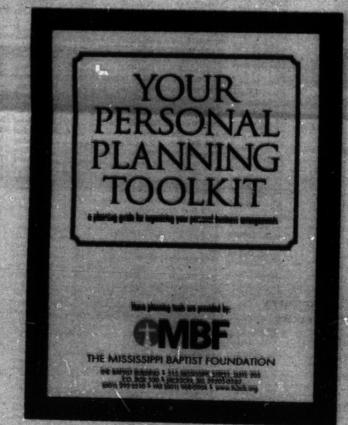
My association Mississippi Baptist Foundation has provided a unique "bird's eye" view on Christian stewardship as I have witnessed scores of faithful Christian stewards who have passed on God's blessings with a cheerful and generous spirit. These stewardship testimonies

anchored in scriptural truths such as "The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it..." (Psa. 24:1) or "...for everything in heaven and earth is yours; Yours, is the kingdom, O LORD. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things" (1 Chron. 29:11b-12a).

Many of these stewardship testimonies came courtesy of a Last Will and Testament, a memorial gift for a scholarship or mission endowment, or a life-income trust. The approximately 1,450 accounts administered by the Mississippi Baptist Foundation reflect the convictions of the believers who initiated these testimonies, namely, (1) God owns everything,

"You will be made rich in every way so that you can (2) We are stewards of all that is His, and (3) Planning our estate represents the greatest act of financial stewardship undertaken by anyone.

> I have come to realize that the Foundation's role is to assist Mississippi Baptists, on whose heart God has left the imprint of the cross, become life-long and perpetual stewards of the blessings that He has entrusted to their care. To that end, we will continue to inform, interest, and influence Mississippi Baptists concerning estate stewardship while encouraging every adult to have a Last Will and Testament through which is offered at least a tithe of their estate for the enhancement of Kingdom ministry through Baptist causes.





#### **O**BITUARY

R. Alan Day, born July 6, 1948, died February 16 as a result of injuries suffered in a motorcycle accident in Edmund, Ok. He was pastor of First Church, Edmond, Ok., Church, Edmond, Ok., for 25 years. He also pastored First Church, McComb; Golden Acres Church, Pasadena, Tex.; Grays Creek Church, Denham Springs, La.; and Emmanuel Church, Runkie La He was pro-Bunkie, La. He was pre-ceded in death by his parents Van H. Georgie Amacker Day. He is survived by his wife



1. Day

of 41 years Alice Jean Day, daughter Charis and husband Shawn Murphy of Jonesville, S.C., son Cheyne and wife Misty of Sand Springs, Okla., son Richard of Edmond, son Aaron and Springs, Okla., son Richard of Edmond, son Aaron and wife Lindsey of Albuquerque, N.M., brother Gary V. Day of Zachary, La., sisters Vanessa and husband Edward Lawson of Madisonville, La., and Robin Day of Bogalusa, La., and second mother Ella Faye Day of Bogalusa, La., six grandchildren Mackenzie, Karissa and Alaina Murphy, Calvin and Sadie Day, and Adalynn Day. He is also survived by numerous other family members and friends. Services, were held on February 22 at 10:00 a.m. at First Church, Edmond. Interment was Wednesday, February 23 at 2:00 p.m. at DeRoche Cemetery in Bismarck, Arkansas.

W. E. Corkern died early on the morning of February 20. He was born August 22, 1926. He served his country on the U.S S. Missouri in WWII. After finishing try on the U.S. S. Missouri in WWII. After finishing Southeastern University, he enrolled and graduated from New Orleans Seminary and preached the Gospel for the next 50 years. He is predeceased by his first wife of 32 years, Jorean Pigott Corkern and two brothers, Arbie William Corkern and Everette Corkern. He is survived by his wife, Charlotte A. Corkern and a sister, Exie Jo Elmore and her husband John of Longview, Tex. and a brother, Theron James Corkern and his wife Betty of Franklinton, La. Also left are his children, Robert Corkern and his wife Missy, Paul Corkern and Julie Keaton, three grandchildren - Michael Corkern, Casey Keaton, and Caroline Corkern. His stepfamily includes five stepchildren, seven stepgrandchildren and five stepgreatgrandchildren. Two visitations were held at Parkway Church, Hernando. One was Tuesday evening, February 22nd from 4 to 7 and the second on evening, February 22nd from 4 to 7 and the second on Wednesday, February 23rd from Noon to 1 p.m. with the service following.

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#### COLLEGE NEWS

William Carey University's associate professor of biology Randall Harris and Purvis chemistry major Berquin Feese are among 68 outstanding faculty and students from 34 Mississippi public and private universities and colleges to receive special recognition from the private universities and colleges to receive special recognition from the Mississippi Legislature during the Higher Education Appreciation Day—Working for Academic Excellence (HEADWAE) program. Established in 1988, HEADWAE honors individual academic achievement and the averall academic achievement and the overall contribution to the state's public and private institutions of higher learning. The 2010 - 2011 Appreciation Day, host-

ed by the Legislature in Jackson, was held on February 3. On the Appreciation Day, the Honorees traveled to the State Capitol where they were welcome by Lieutenant Governor Phil Bryant, recognized in each chamber of the Legislature and honored at a luncheon. Shown are Harris, Bryant, and Feese.

Mark Hughes is MC's new dean of enroll-ment services. Hughes has served as vice president for enrollment management at Gardner-Webb College in North Carolina and as associate vice president/dean of enrollment services at Anderson College in South Carolina.



1. HEADWAE awards



2. Hughes

#### STAFE CHANGES

Valley Grove Church, Pontotoc County, has called Steve Quarles as pastor. He comes from College Hill Heights Church in Oxford. He is shown with his wife Wendy and children Joe, Mac, Chyna, and Alaina.



1. The Quarles

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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE Faith Under Fire I Peter 1:1-12

By Bobby McKay

How many of you remember the movie Back to the Future? In this comedy/science fiction an eccentric scientist builds a time machine using a Toyota DeLorean and a lot of Toyota DeLorean and a lot of creativity. In the sequel to the movie, the scientist and his friend must travel to the year 2015 to solve a problem. When they arrive in 2015 they are 30 years removed from everything and everyone they know. The duo discovers many marvels and inventions that have come about since the 1980's. Some of these included skate boards that hover, shoes with power laces and clothes that dry themselves. While it is good to note that if the movie is accurate these items are only four years away, it raises a more intrigu-ing thought. What if we could actually see into the future?

You and I both know that time travel is a product of cinematic

1 imagination, but would-n't it be beneficial to McKay know when a difficulty or adversity is headed our way? Unfortunately, that is not possible. We must live in the present. With that thought, let us gather our attention toward. I Peter. The original readers of this letter were said. this letter were early believers who were facing persecution for their commitment to Christ. Their daily reality was one of adversity and testing. Although we as Americans have been spared thus far from immense persecution, each of us face difficulties and personal hardships. What was true for the first century Christians is true for us today: God is our living hope in times of trials. Through faith in Him and His benevolent grace; we can not this letter were early believers

eventually thrive in tough situations.

Hope's Location

(I Peter 1:1-5)
In the opening verse of this letter we are reminded of an important fact about location. By this was not limited only to the

sage of salvation to their lost world. This was their legacy...to be faithful in the

work of God as one!

Through God's providential Hand, persecution had scattered believers to many places in the known world. When this happened, something beautiful began to blossom: hope. We must constantly remember that as followers of Christ, He lives within us. Because He lives within us, so does authentic and living hope. No matter where you may be geographically, God's hope is right there sharing a space alongside of you. The hope God provides cannot be taken a start. taken away. It is secure in Jesus. Verse 3 calls our hope "living." The reason our hope

only endure, but is living, is because it is con-eventually thrive in nected to the Living Savior. Wherever Christ resides, hope abounds.

It is important that we understand what Peter means by the word "protected" in verse 5. He is not implying that Christians would be protected from trials rather protected during trials. In the midst of your heartache and pain remember that God is with you. Read the last part of verse 5. Your hope is not in vain. There is a day coming when God's power will be revealed through your faith and salva-tion. Do not lose hope.

**Faith's Foundation** 

(I Peter 1:6-9)
With our hope secure in Christ, our faith can flourish. Similar to the early part of the book of James, Peter notes that there should be a progression and a result to our tests. The NAS Bible says in verse 7 that, "the result should be praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ." Because our foundation is secure, we (I Peter 1:6-9)

can praise Him in the storm. Although tough, suffering often serves as an instrument of growth and greater dependence upon our foundation in Christ. Verse 8 displays the solid faith we should possess. It reminds us that even though we have not seen Jesus with our eyes, we still love and believe in Him. That is a strong foundation.

> Grace's Demonstration (I Peter 1:10-12)

In these three verses Peter is reminding the readers of the prophets of old. Their message was one of a coming Messiah and a grace that would be put on display for all those that believed. The grace he is referring to was available to them (and us) right now. We are so blessed to live in a time where God's offer of grace is present-God's offer of grace is presented through the completed work of the cross. When your faith is tested go back to the future. Not the movie, back to the cross and rejoice over your future!

McKay is pastor of Harperville Church, Harperville.

#### EXPLORE THE BIBLE Link Up with Others

Philippians 1:1-11

By Cyndi Grace

It seems there is very little good news on the nightly news! With the mid-east unrest, the bad economy, and the moral compass of our country turned upside down it is easy to become disheartened. Take heart! This quarter's lessons are from three letters Paul had written (while in prison) to churches also facing grim circumstances. In all three letters, Paul's advice can be summe. Paul's advice can be summarized by two words: Move

We will first look at Paul's letter to his beloved church at Philippi, a book I have read several times, but was struck anew by two words found in the first three verses: All and Partnership! Paul wrote to all the saints together with the overseers and deacons (NIV)

ago singing Steve Green's song, "He Who Began a Good Work in You," (vs 1:6) claiming this promise personally about my ministry...but this letter is addressed to an entire congression as the

entire congregation, not to individuals, and so the principles should be as well. While that might seem obvious, many churches today are not working in that way. Congregations are disjointed by age groupings and divisions. by age groupings and divisions, each seemingly doing their own things. I am reminded of Jesus' words in John 17:20-23. Please read this in its entirety but let me emphasis
Jesus' deep cry to the Father,
"Let them be one....so that the
world will know that You have sent me!" Paul seemed to understand that this was not

something they could do by themselves and insisted they work together to get the mes-

work of God as one!

It is evident that Paul had deep affection as he shared his prayer for them a prayer that would allow them to move forward. (vs 9-11) He prayed that their love would grow...not in superficial things but in knowledge and deep insight into spiritual things. The physical things around them were not going well...so they needed to grow more in their love of God and each other and acquire a deeper understanding of what God had to say. He prayed for their discernment so they, as a congregation, would know what to do! Finally he prayed that they all would be pure and blameless and filled with righteousness until Christ came again ness until Christ came again and that would be only for the glory of God. So what does this have to do

with us today? A common complaint heard is that our

our congregation. We might be surprised at what God has in store! To seek God's will together brings a sense of community as the Holy Spirit guides our thoughts to the will of God. We also gain the discernment of which Paul speaks so we will know what is good congregations have lost a sense of community. Our older mem-bers don't know the younger members and vice versa. meet on Sundays and Wednesdays but often go home with a lack of connection. As a lifelong Southern Baptist, I have seen subtle changes that have hindered this sense of community. So how do we get that sense of community again? The advice Paul gives is so we will know what is good and what is a detriment to the gospel. If this is done regularly, we become a pure and blame-less bride, readying ourselves in his prayer: we must come together and have an "abounding love and depth of understanding." To accomplish this, Bible study must be more than for Christ's return. Paul's prayer for the Philippians should be our prayer for our a time for fellowship...we should be earnestly seeking together what God says...and then apply it to our lives and to our church. Also, our congrega-tional prayer time needs to be more than going over a hospital list! While this is important we

should also come together,

own congregations. As you study Philippians this week, ask how your church comes together to "move for-ward." I challenge you, as a body, to pray Paul's prayer in verses 9-11 over your own congregation so the legacy of the early church will continue. Kingdom work is becoming more difficult and if we are to earnestly seeking God's wis-dom and direction for the body. Instead of copying what another church is doing or implementing the points of the latest best-selling book, we should seek what God wants in evangelize, we need to move forward as one... Onward Christian Soldiers!

Grace is a conference speaker and Bible teacher and is a member

### Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

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The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Reptist Proceed with the Columnia of the

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an email form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Record Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

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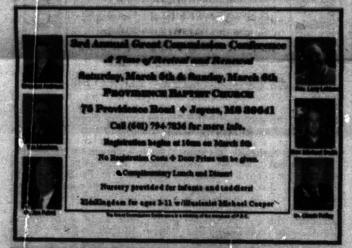
be published on a space-available basis. Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail:



1. Martin ordination



2. Grace Church, Vicksburg



## The Oxford Center

- Classes meet each Monday at First Baptist Church, Oxford [800 Van Buren Oxford, MS]



- Riverport Greenville, Hack Martin Church, Greenville, ordained Hack Martin as, deacon Oct. 24, 2010. Shown are pastor Neal Cordell, Martin, and his wife.
- Grace Church, Vicksburg, was given a set of new flags in December as a donation by the Woodmen of the World.
- Military Church, Sumrall, presented The Love of God at Christmas Dec. 4 and 5, Shown are the par-
- Union West Church, Oxford, sponsored a ban-quet honoring their senior adults Feb. 12. Shown are the participants.



- Holly Springs Church, Brookhaven: Homecoming, Mar. 20; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., followed by short busi-ness meeting and special music group, 4eternity and covered dish lunch.
- Immanuel Church, Natchez: Revival, Mar. 27 - 30; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Mike Grenn, speaker; Steve Strebeck, music.
- Bowlin Church, Sallis: Revival, Mar. 13 16; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon. Wed., 7 p.m.; Steve Jordan, speaker.

EEK OF PRAYER FOR MARCH 6-13, 2011



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3. Military Church, Sumrall



4. Union West Church, Oxford



a part of the READ THE BIBLE FOR LIFE initiative by George Guthrie

April 15-16



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